

7. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the plurality of medical images comprises transferring the images from a plurality of scanners.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the plurality of medical
5 images comprises transferring the images from a computer readable medium.

9. The method of claim 1, comprising notifying a user via automatic electronic messaging that the images are accessible for display on a client
10 computer.

10. The method of claim 1, comprising storing the images as pixel values according to a predetermined standard Internet compatible process.

11. The method of claim 10, comprising adjusting brightness and
15 contrast.

12. The method of claim 11, comprising cropping the images.

13. A medical image database comprising:
a first medical image generated using a first imaging format;
and
a second medical image generated using a second imaging
format, wherein the second imaging format is different from the first
25 imaging format.

14. The database of claim 13, wherein the first and second medical images have been converted to a common browser compatible image format and are stored in the database in the common browser image format.

5 15. The database of claim 13, wherein: the first medical image is generated from a first scanner manufactured by a first manufacturer; and the second medical image is generated from a second scanner manufactured by a second manufacturer.

10 16. The database of claim 13, wherein:
the first medical image corresponds to a first modality; and
the second medical image corresponds to a second modality.

15 17. The database of claim 16, wherein the first and second modalities are selected from the group consisting of: magnetic resonance imaging; echocardiographic imaging; nuclear scintigraphic imaging; positron emission tomography; electrocardiographic data; and x-ray imaging.

20 18. A medical image database comprising images corresponding to a plurality of different modalities, wherein the database is organized in a hierarchical data structure, comprising:

a patient identifier parameter; and

25 an image modality identifier parameter associated with at least one of the plurality of modalities wherein the patient identifier parameter is at a higher level in the hierarchical data structure than the image modality identifier parameter.

5 an image modality identifier parameter associated with each of
the plurality of modalities; and

10

a plurality of images representing a plurality of different modality scans;

an examination date identifier parameter associated with each of the plurality of images; and

20

25

in response to a user request, pulling images from a scanner;

converting the pulled images to a common image format compatible for display at a computer; and

posting the converted images to a database for subsequent display at a client computer in response to a second user request.

5

23. The method of claim 22, comprising notifying the user by automatic electronic messaging when the images are posted, whereby the users may view the images at a client computer.

10

24. A method of managing medical images comprising:
receiving a plurality of images corresponding to a plurality of modalities; and
displaying to a user at a client computer a selection comprising images associated with at least two different modalities.

15

25. The method of claim 24, comprising, in response to the user selection, simultaneously displaying at the client computer images corresponding to at least two different modalities.

20

26. The method of claim 25, comprising displaying the images corresponding to the two modalities side-by-side.

25

27. A method of managing medical images comprising:
storing in a database medical images converted to a browser compatible format, wherein the images correspond to at least two different examination times;

5

10

15

20

25

5

10

15

20

25

36. A method of managing medical images comprising:
linking a first scanner for a first modality and a second scanner for a second modality to a transfer engine via a distributed network;
transferring medical images from the first and second scanners to the transfer engine; and
converting the medical images to a common browser compatible format.

37. A method of managing medical images comprising:
transferring medical images from a first scanner for a first
modality to an image database; and
5 transferring medical images from a second scanner for a
second modality to the image database.

38. The method of claim 37, wherein transferring the medical
images comprises converting the medical images to a common browser
10 compatible image format.

39. The method of claim 37, comprising displaying on a web page
at a client computer a selection comprising images corresponding to the
first modality and images corresponding to the second modality.
15

40. The method of claim 37, comprising selecting an image from
the image database in response to a user request and displaying the image
to the user at a client computer.

20 41. A method of managing medical images comprising:
converting a medical image data to Internet browser compatible
format;
determining a region of diagnostic interest of the medical
image; and
25 adjusting image quality of the medical image based upon the
region of diagnostic interest.

42. The method of claim 41, wherein the medical image comprises a series of movie frames and adjusting the image quality comprises searching each movie frame for a brightest pixel.

5 43. The method of claim 42, comprising scaling each movie frame such that the brightest pixel is scaled to a maximum brightness level of a standard Internet compatible format.

44. The method of claim 41, comprising pulling at least two
10 medical images, including the medical image, from at least two scanners.

45. The method of claim 44, wherein the at least two scanners are manufactured by at least two manufacturers.

15 46. The method of claim 44, wherein the at least two scanners generate images corresponding to at least two modalities.

47. The method of claim 41, comprising posting the converted medical image data to a medical image database.
20

48. The method of claim 41, comprising, in response to a user input, selecting at least one of a plurality of medical images.

49. The method of claim 48, comprising displaying the one medical
25 image at a browser.

50. The method of claim 41, comprising:

displaying the converted image to a first user at a first location;
and

simultaneously displaying the converted image to a second
user at a second location different from the first location.

5

51. A method of managing medical images comprising:

pulling a first image data having a first data format from a first
scanner;

pulling a second image data having a second data format,
10 different from the first data format, from a second scanner; and

converting the first and second image data having the first and
second data formats to a browser compatible data format.

52. A method of claim 51 comprising displaying at a user selected
15 browser the first and second image data after the image data had been
converted to the browser compatible format, whereby medical image data
from two different image formats may both be displayed at an arbitrary
browser.

20 53. A method of managing medical images for storage in a data
base comprising:

determining a region of diagnostic interest of a medical image;
cropping the medical image to include the region of diagnostic
interest and to reduce the data to be stored in the database; and

25 storing the cropped medical image in the database.

54. The method of claim 53 comprising adjusting image quality based upon the region of diagnostic interest.

55. The method of claim 54, wherein the adjusting comprises
5 scaling the image according to a standard Internet compatible format.

56. An Internet address data format for accessing a database comprising medical images corresponding to a plurality of modalities from a plurality of scan dates and associated with a plurality of patients, wherein
10 the images are stored in a browser compatible format and the address format comprises:

a patient identifier associated with each image;

a modality identifier associated with each image and positioned after the patient identifier; and

15 a scan date identifier associated with each image positioned after the patient identifier, whereby a user at a browser may select a desired image by entering an Internet address associated with the desired image.

57. The data format of claim 56, wherein the scan date identifier is
20 after the modality identifier.

58. The data format of claim 56, comprising a website identifier positioned before the patient identifier.

25 59. A medical image management system comprising:
a transfer engine for receiving medical image data from an image data source;

a converter engine for converting medical image data to a browser compatible image format connected to receive medical image data from the transfer engine; and

5 a post engine for posting the browser compatible image to a database connected to receive converted image data.

60. The system of claim 59, wherein the converter engine comprises:

10 a decoder engine for extracting image pixel data from image data;

a physiologic knowledge engine for reducing the image pixel data without loss of diagnostic data connected to receive the extracted pixel data; and

15 an encoding engine for converting image pixel data to a browser compatible format connected to receive image pixel data, whereby image data may be converted to the browser compatible format without loss of diagnostic data.

20 61. The system of claim 59, comprising a server connected for retrieving images from a database of browser compatible images in response to a user input.

62. The method of claim 1, comprising adjusting a movie frame rate based upon a priori knowledge.

25

5 64. The method of claim 42, comprising setting a movie frame rate
based on a diagnostic question.

10

15 medical images on the web page.

68. The method of claim 66 comprising the step of displaying the rearranged medical images on a new web page.

69. The method of claim 66 comprising the step of allowing a user to select a displayed image and designate a location on the web page at which the selected image is to be displayed when the display of the plurality of medical images is rearranged.

70. The method of claim 69 comprising the step of using an html image tag of the selected image when rearranging the display of the plurality of medical images.